**CADER Nassir 1A.I**

**SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING FEEDBACK**

When I first learned about self-directed learning in school I was surprised and afraid. I used to think that in order to learn a foreign language you need a teacher to teach you the basics. For the last 15 years I’ve been used to learn in the classic way: class, lessons, exams…but this year it changed. The classic way was an efficient way to learn for me, so I had to leave my comfort zone.

At first I didn’t get the point of self-directed learning, but after a while I’ve learned how important it is especially for an engineer.

With my comrade we tried a lot of different things: we tried learning through tv shows, movies, trailers with and without subtitles. I liked learning this way because it was easier for me. But to really memorize the new words, just watching the videos wasn’t enough. I also had to take notes at the same time.

We tried to learn by exchanging emails in English. By doing this we learned to know each other and we also improved our written expression. It occurs to me that this is a very convenient way to learn, not only the language but also to learn things about my friend. I realized that it is easier for me to express my self through words that I write than oral expression. Today we continue trying to exchange emails when we have some free time.

We also tried to take notes in English during an economy class and realized that it was more complicated than we expected especially when it comes to specific words used in economy.

Another way we used in our advantage to learn is our passion to cook. At least for me cooking is something I really like to do. So one afternoon we’ve printed out a pancake recipe in English and made pancakes at my place. I’ve really appreciate this experience and I’ve learned specific vocabulary concerning cooking that I will probably need to know in the future if I decide to follow English recipes again.

After doing all these things, we were kind of stuck. We were having a hard time figuring out new ways to learn. As far as my concerned it was definitely due to a lack of motivation. But it was not the only thing blocking me. For a few weeks I didn’t know where I was heading. I felt like I wasn’t going anywhere.

So I read a few articles on the web talking about motivation, and I decided to define a goal. My goal is to write a novel in English. I know that it’s going to take time, a year at least maybe. I know that I won’t be published or anything because my English level is ridiculous compared to the American or English writers. But I want to do this because I like writing and I want to improve my written expression in English. And of course having a goal is a source of motivation. I didn’t choose this goal randomly. I feel like there is a part of me that most people ignore, and I don’t know how to express it. Maybe by writing something inspired by my feelings, emotions and experience will help me figure out who I really am and how I can define myself in society.

Our common goal with my comrade this semester is to create a game that will allow us to improve our English level. We already made a prototype; the game is called the Triffle game. We can play this game with other groups in the class.

I think that the more we are, more we learn, and of course the more the merrier.

The question we are implying is can we learn through a game? And how can we learn through a game?

Concerning the second language we have to learn, it was a bit complicated. At first we were suppose to learn German. But after a few weeks we both decided to change the language because we weren’t really interested by German and we definitely weren’t having any fun learning it. To be honest it was quiet boring learning German even if we tried different ways to learn this language. So we decided to learn Chinese instead. Chinese is a language fun to learn and more importantly it is a language that we are interested in. So far, due to our very low level in this language we haven’t tried many different things. We are learning with a software called Tell me more and using a website that we found. For the moment we are focusing our work on the vocabulary and we are trying different ways to memorize it. We tried learning the vocabulary by writing words on small piece of sheets and placing them in some specific places in our apartment: bathroom, room…

We also tried to learn the vocabulary while doing some physical exercises like push ups. It turns out it’s an efficient way to memorize the vocabulary and it allows us to keep in shape to. So we can kill two birds in one stone.

The last months I’ve learned how important self-directed learning is but I’ve also learned a lot about me. The unknown doesn’t scare me of; on the contrary it attracts me. The fear I felt in the beginning wasn’t real fear it was an illusion. Creativity is something very important in self-directed learning, and it inspires me. I learn better when I’m doing something I like, for instance I’ve learned a lot by watching American TV shows. I like learning with other people instead of learning by myself. I like learning in different environments. For example I like learning in my kitchen. Self directed learning gives me the liberty to choose how, when and what do I want to learn. I haven’t figure out yet which way of learning is the more appropriate for me but I’m getting there.

I realized after a while that this year wasn’t the first time I actually did self –directed learning. Since I moved to France three years ago I’ve been learning by myself. It was the first time I was living by myself far from my family so I had to adapt and learn by my own. So in a way I’ve been doing self-directed learning the past three years without even knowing it. The difference this year is that I’m aware of it and I’m applying it to learn languages.

Albert Einstein once said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results, doesn’t this sentence explain the whole point of self-directed learning?





